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PRESS RELEASE

GENESEOPARK DISTRICT RECEIVES ILLINOIS DISTINGUISHED ACCREDITED AGENCY AWARD

WHAT: The Geneseo Park District has been recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).

WHY: **The purpose of this award** is to improve the quality of life for Illinois residents and to recognize those agencies that provide exceptional Park and Recreation services to their community through a voluntary, comprehensive, professional accreditation process.

“This program gives recognition to park and recreation agencies that go above and beyond in dedicating themselves to offering quality programs and services designed to fulfill their community’s needs,” said Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director.

Successful completion of the Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation process has the following benefits:

- Recognition that the recreation agency provides exceptional Park and Recreation services to their community
- Increased operational efficiency & effectiveness
- Opportunity for updating and clarification of policies and procedures
- Meet professional standards for facilities and services
- Acknowledges elected officials as effective and efficient guardians of the public interest in parks and recreation, and of the public resources provided for recreation opportunities
- Acknowledged as employing qualified professionals
- Recognized as a leader in the State of Illinois in the field of parks and recreation

“The Staff and Board of the Geneseo Park District is extremely proud of this award. The hard work and time spent over the last five years to maintain all of the standards and continue to operate at the level we are has been tremendous. The staff has managed the records for the standards extremely well and is honored to receive this award again,” said Andy Thurman, Geneseo Park District Executive Director.

HOW: The Geneseo Park District started the accreditation process in 2011 and received the first Illinois Distinguished Accreditation Award in November 2012. Since that time the Park District has continued its commitment to exceeding the highest standards in the Park and Recreation profession. Because of the Board and Staff's commitment, the Geneseo Park District was able to earn 497.94 points out of a base of 500 points. This score exceeded the minimum 375 points required to pass.

Please contact Andy Thurman at athurman@geneseoparkdistrict.org or at (309) 944-5695 for more information.

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